

REMARKS

Claims 7 through 27 are currently pending in the present application and are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Independent claims 7 and 22, as well as dependent claims 8 through 12, 16 through 21 and 25 through 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,966,021 to Boag (hereinafter "Boag"). Applicants respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons below.

Independent claims 7 and 22 provide for, *inter alia*, a locking block that extends from the lock cylinder to engage the lock housing, thereby directly preventing rotation of the lock cylinder relative to the lock housing. As shown in Figure 2 of the present invention, the locking block extends outside the lock cylinder to act as a barrier impeding the rotation of the lock cylinder. In the claimed present invention, the locking block is the only part that prevents the lock cylinder from rotating.

In contrast, the pick bar of Boag does not directly prevent rotation of the lock cylinder. As show in Figure 7 of Boag, the pick bar directly engages the outer serrated edge of each tumbler which in turn prevents manipulation. Thus, the pick bar itself does not directly prevent the rotation of the lock cylinder, instead it directly engages the tumblers. In addition, the pick bar remains captured within the retainer bar instead of extending into the locking cylinder to prevent rotation as in the claimed present invention. Consequently, Boag does not disclose or suggest a locking block that extends from the lock cylinder, thereby directly preventing rotation of the lock cylinder relative to the lock housing, as recited in claims 7 and 22.

In addition, independent claim 7 provides, *inter alia*, that rotation of the first key in turn rotates the lock cylinder causing the locking block to retract into the lock cylinder and slide into the blocking groove. The locking block retraction into the lock cylinder by sliding into the blocking groove prevents the toothed piece from moving and moves the sliding block to disengage the toothed slide from the toothed piece.

As shown in Figure 7 of Boag, rotation of the key causes the retainer bar to move into pockets of the housing allowing separation of the tumblers from the key followers. In contrast, the toothed piece of claim 7 does not move upon rotation, nor does it ever move into pockets. In addition, rotation of the key in claim 7 causes the toothed slide to disengage from the toothed piece, however rotation of the key in Boag causes the tumblers to separate from the key followers. Thus, Boag does not disclose or suggest that the rotation of the first key prevents the toothed piece from moving and moves the sliding block to disengage the toothed slide from the toothed piece, as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 7 and 22, as well as claims 8 through 12 and 16 through 21, and 25 through 27 that depend respectively therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 7 through 12, 16 through 22 and 25 through 27 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 13 through 15 and 23 through 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boag as applied to claim 7 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,465 to Loreti (hereinafter "Loreti"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and points out that claims 23 through 24 depend from independent claim 22 and not independent claim 7 as stated in the rejection.

As described above, Boag fails to disclose or suggest a locking block that extends from the lock cylinder to engage the lock housing, thereby directly preventing rotation of the lock cylinder as recited in claim 7 (and claim 22). In addition, Boag fails to disclose or suggest that upon rotation of a key, the locking block retraction into the

lock cylinder prevents the toothed piece from moving and moves the sliding block to disengage the toothed slide from the toothed piece, as recited in claim 7.

Loreti is cited to demonstrate the use of springs in a key-changeable lock, however Loreti fails overcome the deficiencies of Boag described above. For example, the stop bar in Loreti only engages the groove, which in turn causes the projections to engage the recesses, thus blocking in the positions of the locking pins. The stop bar does not directly prevent rotation as claimed in the present invention. Thus, for at least the reasons described above, independent claim 7 is patentable over Boag alone or in combination with Loreti.

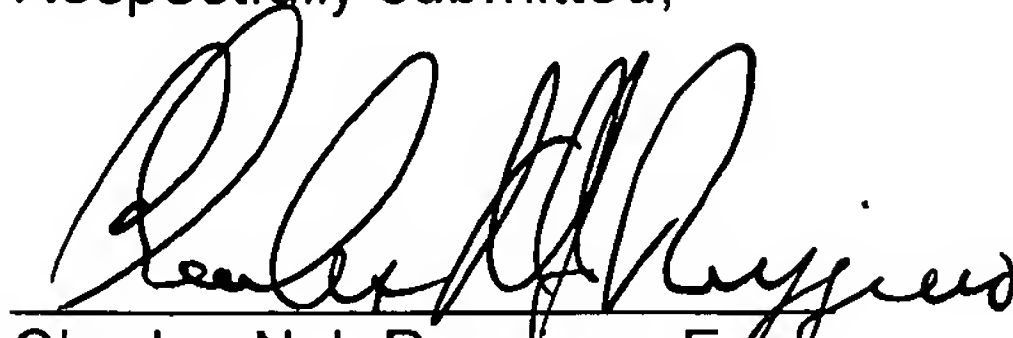
Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as provided for independent claim 7 (and claim 22), dependent claims 13 through 15, and 23 through 24, respectively, by virtue of this dependence are patentable over Boag alone or in combination with Loreti. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13 through 15 and 23 through 24.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. Also, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

August 29, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more prominent.

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